

The South China Sea Chinese Dream is finally looking forward to the return of the U.S. Department of War.

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Not long after Xi Jinping came to the the name in 2012, the horn of the "Chinese Dream" quickly sounded on the Chinese land. At that time, many people still saw flowers in the fog for this big dream. However, Xi Jinping's frequent movements in the South China Sea have made many people see clearly. It turns out that the "Chinese Dream" is a thousand-year chess game, and the expansion of the South China Sea is the prelude to this dream. This made many people excited, and the time to "lift their eyebrows and exhale" has finally come. The mainland portal of that period was full of all kinds of fantasies, charts and plans for the South China Sea and the Pacific. There is almost no rational discussion, let alone doubts or objections.

At that time, most of my concerns were not current affairs topics, but Xi Jinping's "Chinese Dream" in the South China Sea attracted my attention. The intuition tells me that this big dream is the dream of a personal dictatorship emperor repeatedly staged in modern Chinese history, but every performance has been carefully packaged and widely publicized. In the Chinese network more than ten years ago, it was very difficult to survive the words that directly exposed the truth of the emperor's dream, that is, it was not seen by the vast majority of people. Because this is a field of "political correctness", under the influence of the Chinese "unification" culture, there is no doubt or criticism.

Although I have written several articles on the South China Sea debate with a cautious attitude, I have still been besieged, abused and unreasonable entanglement many times. My writing basically does not involve political positions. I mostly discuss the results of the South China Sea dispute from a historical, cultural and geopolitical perspective, but it shows me the ecology of the simplified Chinese writing circle: any text that is not fully consistent with the "New Thought of the Party Central Committee" of the mainland is anti-China or smeared.

At the same time, the mainland has gradually strengthened the pace of blocking and banning the Internet. In the past ten years, a large number of remarks and information that are not consistent with the new central government, and even words unrelated to politics, have been deleted. Countless accounts (or bloggers) have been blocked and arrested, and even thrown into cells. After cleaning the inside of the wall, he began to reach out to the outside of the wall, first in Chinese and then all the text, in an attempt to control all the media and public opinion in the world. The "burning books and pit Confucianism" of the "Chinese Dream" in the new era is getting more and more intense, and it is still gloomy.

This is a cultural disaster. On the contrary, these anti-human phenomena have aroused my great interest. Since then, evaluating the wisdom and greatness of the "Party Central Committee", dismantling the "Chinese Dream" and deconstructing their logical and chaotic discourse skills have become one of the most beloved topics in the writing of this blog.

The dictatorship needs the cooperation of feudal culture to shape the image of the strong. Xi Jinping has been wandering between the Taiwan Sea and the South China Sea, looking for opportunities to "build a career". As a friendly country to China, because most of its citizens have a relatively soft Catholic background, the Philippines has become a soft persimmon chosen by Xi Jinping, or a breakthrough for the burning of the

"Chinese Dream".

I have visited the Philippines, visited the Philippine Military Academy ("The [Exploration of the Philippine Military Academy](#)", "[Explosit the Military Camp and Huangyan Island: The Philippines](#)", and also visited many U.S. military bases (including the Subic Bay area and Clark Airport), and personally learned about the history of the Pacific War, and also friendly The Filipino soldiers had an honest conversation.

My conclusion is very clear: Xi Jinping's behavior in the South China Sea has no legal basis and no moral appeal. It is just a gambler's imperial dream. Under the condition that the people have food to eat, they can get some cheers; but when the economy is down and people's livelihood is suffering, they will only be attacked at home and outside in the end, be besieged by the new "eight-nation allied forces", and lead to the fate of isolation and collapse ("[A piece of stinky chess crushes the Chinese dream in the South China Sea?](#)", "[South China Sea arbitration will make China fall into "A" again "Noon Fengyun"?](#)", etc.).

In the face of the International Court of Justice's "Arbitration in the South China Sea", which had been certified during the Qing Dynasty, my prediction at that time was that "the arbitration of disputes in the South China Sea undoubtedly opened a gap for Western countries. If it is true, as many people say, the cause of the South China Sea dispute is that "extraterritorial countries" want to contain China. So these countries now do have the "legal basis" of containment, and even have an excuse to start a war. The question is who opened Pandora's box? Just like a hundred years ago, "Awu Fengyun" returned to the sky above China.

After Duterte became President of the Philippines, the Communist Party of China invited him to visit China, spending a lot of money to put the judgment of the South China Sea Arbitration on hold, acquiescing the

occupation of Philippine waters and islands to save face. The amount of money is quite considerable, which supports free education in countries with a population of more than 100 million. The Philippine World Daily wrote that as an exchange of interests to restore China-Philippine relations and no longer provoke the South China Sea issue, the Philippines will hope to receive tens of billions of dollars in investment from China in infrastructure construction such as railways and power grids.

"My grandfather is a Chinese, and only China will help us," Duterte said. He also humorously said, "It will take a thousand years for the Philippines to progress without China's help." Duterte's three-day visit to China in 2016 excited the official media: "The Philippines will part ways with the United States", and "China has never invaded the Philippines and is a good friend", "We will rely on China's help for a long time", "China is the only hope for the Philippine economy", and so on. Shoe talk is full of mainland media. What is important is not only the "China-Philippines friendship", but also the "bricks" believe that the Philippines has completely turned its face with the United States and formed a "strategic partnership" with the motherland. The "China-Philippines friendship" is so important that it has completed the north-south attack on the Taiwan independence forces, and has become a hawk dog guarding the east gate of the South China Sea of the motherland. The United States has no place to stand in the South China Sea. Since the Philippines is a part of the motherland, does it still matter whose Huangyan Island belongs to? In a word, the South China Sea and China have won!

Official media such as Universal believe that the United States has lost all and even has no pants. Sure enough, the motherland is wise and great! There was no time to print the good news of Zhu Jie, and Duterte's plane had returned to his hometown. He immediately held an on-site press conference and said that the Philippines will part ways with the United

States, not about national defense, diplomacy, trade... Wait for the break-off. The relationship between the United States and the Philippines is in the highest interest. People in the Iron Curtain will not see these contents.

Almost at the same time, Xi promised then-President Obama that he would not reclaim the South China Sea and build military facilities on islands and reefs. He believes that Americans are easy to deceive. Even if they are determined to breach the contract, they will not have a "war wolf" mentality.

The Philippines is an island country with many national languages. It has never formed a country with a unified culture in history. Generally speaking, Spanish, Chinese and American cultures are the three mainstream cultures. The natural friendliness to Chinese people was the main impression left by the Philippines on me at that time. Unlike Hawaii, the independent Philippines missed the opportunity to join the United States. Maybe the latter is not interested in absorbing her at all, just like the current situation in Puerto Rico, which is another topic.

The attitude of the Philippines towards the U.S. military in history is very complicated. Under pressure, the U.S. military withdrew almost completely from the Philippines in the 1990s, including the most important Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Force Base. However, the historical connection between the Philippine military and the U.S. military is very deep, which will immediately show her special relationship with the Western Military Academy when visiting the Philippine Military Academy. An officer on duty in Rizal Square in Manila told me that the U.S. military could never have returned to the Philippines. All these changes are due to the result of China's trouble in the South China Sea. Thank you, China!

In recent years, disputes over Huangyan Island and other sea areas have become a nose wrapped around the neck of Zhongnanhai, provoking the nerves of the surrounding countries again and again. Just a month ago (August 11), a Chinese coast guard ship (Sea Guard No. 3104) chased the Philippine patrol boat "Sulu" near Huangyan Island. Seeing that it was about to collide, the Chinese Navy's Guilin ship (board number 164, 052D missile destroyer) stepped forward to stop the Chinese pursuit at high speed, and crashed the head of the Chinese coast guard ship. Many people in the bow of the ship were killed and injured. The full video of the incident became the headline of international jokes.

The "Chinese Dream" in the South China Sea has become a nightmare, which may just be the overture of the big play.

Suddenly, there was news that U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on September 5, 2025, changing the Department of Defense back to the Ministry of War.

The War Department of the United States was established in 1789 as a cabinet body in charge of army affairs. During World War II, the U.S. military power expanded significantly, and the army, navy, marines and other departments operated hugely, highlighting the coordination problems. At that time, in addition to the "War Department", there was also a separate "Department of the Navy". The National Security Act of 1947 established a unified Department of Defense.

Trump believes that the name "War Department" is more powerful and offensive than "Department of Defense", which helps to convey the "deadly preparedness" and "decisive attitude" of the U.S. military. The senior management hopes to convey a tougher and more decisive military posture through the name.

"War Department" is the official name used in the United States for a long time. Now it is used in informal occasions in the form of "second name", avoiding formal regulatory procedures and reducing legal barriers. Supporters believe that this historical name is closely related to "victory in war" and "military glory", which helps to reshape a "warrior ethos".

The topic of the "Ministry of War" is quite quiet or silent in the context of the simple Chinese media, and it is not the "headline" of the news. Do you think it's strange?

Heart-wrenching question: Who is it related to the change back to the "War Department"? Is it to fight with Venezuela?

Some "Japanese and Taiwanese" media reported: "Trump's strategy towards China has turned." It is said that "Deputy Secretary of Defense Ko Berge said that the United States aims to achieve an "equilibrium" with China in the Indo-Pacific region" in order to effectively deter potential aggression. The report also cited Secretary of State Rubio, who has long been regarded as a "hawkish man against China", as an example, saying that his recent remarks on China have obviously softened. Some media believe that Huafu's hostile attitude towards China has been gradually replaced by pragmatism with the color of transactions. As long as it is beneficial to the United States, Beijing's autitarian system can be tolerated. Note that the following comments are not in quotation marks.

Is the United States really so naive, or is your dream too naive?

An official of the Ministry of War said to the Voice of America. The Ministry of War is committed to ensuring the research funded by taxpayers. The current government is taking decisive action to counter

the extraction practice of the People's Republic of China through strict supervision and enhanced due diligence measures.

Another piece of news is quite shocking, but you can't easily find it. It is reported that the United States is planning to build the world's largest weapons-making stronghold in the Subic Bay region of the Philippines, where the largest U.S. military base in Asia was once located. The United States is recently deploying missiles in the Philippines and plans to build large-scale military facilities to provide support. According to some analysts, security cooperation between the two countries is constantly strengthening after the new Philippine regime came to power in 2022. According to the Yomiuri Shimbun on September 8, "The purpose of the Subic Bay Ammunition Hub Plan is to defeat China, which has strengthened its hegemony, and consolidate the front."

"At the White House in Washington, D.C., Philippine President Marcos Little discussed the ammunition hub plan during the summit meeting with U.S. President Trump. Marcos Jr. said, "The facility is not only a part of the Philippines's 'independent national defense', but also a measure to deal with the situation in the South China Sea." "Defending its own territory and exercising sovereignty are essential issues." Trump said, "In the coming months, the Philippines will have more ammunition than any other country," "including fast missiles, slow missiles, accurate missiles and less precise missiles."

Subic Bay is located about 90 kilometers northwest of Manila, the capital of the Philippines, about 1,100 kilometers away from Shenzhen and Taipei, and about 1,800 kilometers and 2,800 kilometers away from Shanghai and Beijing respectively. The plan to build a large-scale core military stronghold within the range of China's medium-range ballistic missile (IRBM), isn't it afraid of Dongfeng Express?

In 2023, the Philippines has increased the number of military bases available to the United States in the Philippines from 5 to 9. From 2024, the Philippines will also allow the U.S. military to deploy the "Tifeng" surface-to-ground medium-range missile system and the "Avenge of the "Vengeance" surface-to-ship missiles. It is reported that the latest version of Difeng has a maximum range of more than 2,500 kilometers.

The cooperation between the U.S. military and the Philippines is deepening. The latest military facilities have been built on Palawan Island in the South China Sea and the Batan Islands closest to southern Taiwan. It not only blocked the Bass Strait and controlled the entire South China Sea, but also placed large coastal areas in the eastern and southern parts of the entire continent under its direct fire attack.

Compared with the call of direct war, the reaction of the Communist Party of China was quite "peaceful". On September 10, the establishment of the Huangyan Island National Nature Reserve was announced. If you are really tough, why not simply announce the establishment of the "Huangyan Island National Military Prohibited Zone", "China Dream Sacred Territory Development Zone" or "East Rise to West Fall Model Experimental Zone", wouldn't it be more great or powerful?

The return of the United States to the Ministry of War reflects a major shift in military strategy, that is, from passive defense to active action. The so-called "fatal preparation" and "decisive attitude" come from the overall military deployment thinking in the Indo-Pacific region, rather than passively dealing with local conflicts. This is a fact that the South China Sea had not considered or had been unwilling to face before the "Chinese Dream" of the South China Sea.

As we all know, the United States is the only country with successful combat experience in the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean,

followed by Japan, but it has formed a close military and economic alliance with South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and Australia.

The most important economic regions of the mainland, the foreign trade export base, and the Sanya nuclear submarine base, are under the fire of the U.S. military. If there is another incident of ship chasing in the South China Sea, or harassment around Taiwan, you will think that you are safe and can wake up. I don't know when it will start, it may be the result of a chain conflict and the huge waves in the South China Sea. When and how patient the siege forces will take action depends entirely on sufficient preparation, the amount of decoupling and the degree of collapse of the mainland economy. For the U.S. military, the mushroom-shaped reclaimed islands and reefs will not become unsinkable aircraft carriers. The roots are more like chicken ribs that are easy to fill and difficult to defend, and there is a nightmare of being blown up and sinking into the seabed at any time.

If something big happens, how can this face be to be touted by blindfolding and gagged to relieve the siege?

Zhongnanhai believes that the South China Sea is the place where the "Chinese Dream" rises. They may not have expected that the South China Sea is also a lingering holy place in the dreams of many Americans. The sacrifices and glory of the modern U.S. troops, especially the Navy and Marine Corps, are closely linked to the Western Pacific and the Philippines. If the Americans rely on a few reefs and encroach on the attack step by step, the Americans will retreat, which is undoubtedly a daydream.

The return of the Ministry of War is a clear signal of war. The war schedule it formulated will never be in the hands of Zhongnanhai. As long as it is in accordance with the international law of the South China Sea

Arbitration, start free navigation at any time, and force the Communist Party of China to take risks or wipe the gun to protect its face, and the fire will be ignited quickly. To prevent the tragedy of war, the initiative is still in the hands of the Communist Party of China. To solve the bell, you still need to tie the bell man. It's just a choice for face, a side, or a life-threatening choice.

Attachment:

According to the public information, AI answered the reasons and plans for returning to the Ministry of War:

A **central aim** of President Trump's move is to recast America's military posture from purely "defensive" to unabashedly "war-fighting," thereby projecting unrivaled strength and resolve to both allies and adversaries. By restoring the historic "Department of War" moniker, the administration argues the U.S. will:

Signal to potential foes that America stands ready to employ force in defense of its interests

Reinforce a "peace through strength" doctrine rooted in the founders' belief that demonstrating power is the surest way to deter conflict

Cultivate a modern "warrior ethos" across the services, sharpening focus on mission readiness and honoring the armed forces' combat legacy

Major Purpose: Deterrence Against China

Project an Unambiguous War-Fighting Stance

President Trump's push to rename the Department of Defense the "Department of War" is designed to send a clear message to China that the United States remains fully prepared to employ military force if its interests are challenged. This rebranding aims to reinforce deterrence by emphasizing an uncompromising, war-ready posture on issues ranging from Taiwan's security to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Signal to Beijing that any coercive moves in the Indo-Pacific will be met with decisive military action

Reinforce a "peace through strength" doctrine to dissuade Chinese adventurism

Instill a warrior ethos across the armed services, sharpening focus on combat readiness

Pentagon Pushback and Potential Backfire

Many senior defense officials warn that while the renaming seeks to influence China's strategic calculus, it will likely have little impact on Beijing's risk assessments. Instead, they argue, it may play into Chinese propaganda by portraying the U.S. as a warmongering threat to international stability.

U.S. Military Strategy Toward China

1. Strategic Framework: National Defense Strategy

The U.S. frames its military competition with China through its National Defense Strategy, which designates China as the primary "pacing

challenge" and places deterring Beijing's coercive behavior in the Indo-Pacific at the center of defense planning.

2. Core Pillars

Integrated deterrence combining forward-deployed forces, allied interoperability, and cross-domain (land, sea, air, cyber, space) capabilities to raise the cost of Chinese aggression.

Strengthening alliances and partnerships across the Asia–Pacific and beyond to present a united front and distribute security burdens.

3. Force Posture and Modernization

Forward presence: rotational carrier strike groups, Marine littoral regiments, and joint exercises to demonstrate commitment to regional security.

Capability development: precision long-range fires, resilient command-and-control networks, cyber defenses, and space-based sensors to counter China's anti-access/area-denial systems.

4. End State and Evolving Debates

Experts stress defining a clear end state—such as preserving buffer states, maintaining open sea lanes, and deterring escalation—to avoid reactive policymaking.

Recent Pentagon proposals, however, seek to reprioritize homeland and Western Hemisphere missions over China-centric deterrence, reflecting debate within defense circles about the right balance.

This overview captures how the U.S. military employs deterrence, alliance integration, capability modernization, and strategic clarity to address the challenges posed by China.

Recent Developments in the U.S. Military Strategy Toward China

1. Intensified Counter-Drone and Uncrewed Systems Effort

The Pentagon has been warned by a new Center for a New American Security report that large Chinese drone swarms could overwhelm U.S. forces unless counter-drone defenses are rapidly scaled up.

The U.S. plans to spend roughly \$7.4 billion in 2025 on counter-drone technologies, yet fielding at scale remains limited

Layered defenses are being prioritized: electronic warfare, kinetic interceptors, and directed-energy prototypes

Military leaders are urging industry to deliver integrated AI-enabled solutions rather than isolated "pieces of the puzzle"

2. Draft National Defense Strategy Reprioritization

A newly drafted National Defense Strategy marks a significant pivot by placing homeland and Western Hemisphere missions above countering China, challenging the long-standing focus on Beijing as America's primary "pacing challenge".

Thousands of National Guard troops have been activated for domestic support and Caribbean drug-interdiction

Warships and F-35s are being deployed to the Caribbean to stem illicit

trafficking

Critics warn this shift could undermine deterrence in the Indo-Pacific and unsettle key allies

U.S.–Philippines Military Cooperation in the China Context

Expanded Forward Presence under EDCA and Operation Pathways

The United States has increased its rotational deployments of ground forces, air assets, and maritime surveillance to Philippine bases authorized under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) as part of Operation Pathways. These deployments include jungle and littoral defense drills on Luzon with 3D-printed drones, mobile missile launchers, and live-fire exercises to sharpen territorial defense capabilities. This posture aims to deter Chinese coercion in the South China Sea and Luzon Strait by demonstrating credible, ready-to-fight forces on Philippine soil.

U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division conducting counter-landing and archipelago-defense exercises in northern Luzon

Deployment of a ground-based Mark 41 vertical launch system (MRC/Typhon) with Tomahawk and SM-6 missiles at Manila's request

Regular joint planning and logistics integration under EDCA frameworks

Balikatan 2025: Interoperability and Advanced Capability Integration

Balikatan 2025 marked a high-water point in U.S.–Philippine interoperability, involving roughly 14,000 troops across key Philippine locales near disputed maritime zones. For the first time, U.S. forces

operationally integrated the NMESIS anti-ship missile launcher (Nava I Strike Missile on an unmanned ground vehicle) and expanded use of the Typhon Mid-Range Capability For coastal defense. These drills focused on amphibious operations, island defense, and long-range strike coordination to counter China's A2/AD networks.

9,000 U.S. service members and 5,000 Philippine troops participating

Real-world scenario training: amphibious assaults, island defense, coastal interdiction

Introduction of land-based NSM and ROGUE-Fires UGVs plus SM-6/Tomahawk batteries

Institutional Foundations and Capacity Building

U.S.–Philippine security cooperation rests on the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), the 1998 Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), and EDCA, all of which establish legal and logistical frameworks for joint training, rotational access, and humanitarian assistance. Since 2015, the U.S. has provided over \$463 million in Department of State security assistance and \$ 237 million via Department of Defense capacity-building programs. Active Foreign Military Sales cases now top \$1.033 billion, supporting the Philippines' three-phase, \$40 billion military modernization through 2027.

MDT guarantees mutual defense obligations for attacks on Philippine territory

VFA grants status protections for U.S. personnel during exercises and rotations

EDCA permits pre-positioned equipment, expanded training areas, and facility upgrades

As China continues to field larger drone swarms and advanced A2/AD systems, expect deeper U.S.–Philippine cooperation through additional rotational deployments, accelerated capability deliveries, and Expanded joint training.

You might also be interested in how U.S. partnerships with Japan, Australia (through AUKUS), and the Quad framework are evolving to create a broader network of Indo-Pacific deterrence.